

No Link Proved, Tobacco Research Aide Says

Much more knowledge about cancer especially lung cancer, is necessary before a positive conclusion about its cause or causes can be established, T. V. Hartnett said today.

Hartnett is chairman of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, which is financing "independent scientific research into health problems, including lung cancer."

His comment, in a prepared statement, was directed at charges brought by scientists attending the American Cancer Society seminar for science writers, being held here, that cigarette smoking is a predominant cause of lung cancer.

Opinions Differ

"We do not believe it is fair to the general public or to those connected with the tobacco industry . . . to permit extreme and unproved charges to go unchallenged," Hartnett said. "Many doctors and scientists simply do not agree that the lung-cancer question has been settled."

For example, he said, "The Journal of the American Medical Association recently stated in an editorial there is not 'sufficient evidence to warrant the

assumption of an all-or-none authoritative position' in regard to the smoking theory."

"We do not think," Hartnett continued, "that the present campaign of repeating the anti-smoking theories of the extremists will ever constitute proof of the charges they make against smoking."

Sees 'Nothing New'

In Washington, Edward F. Ragland, vice-president of the Tobacco Institute, Inc., referred specifically to a story by Alton Blakeslee, science writer for the Associated Press, which appears on this page today.

Blakeslee quoted several research scientists who subscribe to the theory that lung cancer is caused by smoking.

"These same men have been speculating about their theories of cigarette smoking for

a number of years," Ragland said, "and we see nothing new in what they say today, except more guesswork and opinion."

"They are admittedly on an anti-smoking crusade and continue to insist that their ideas are right even when a great deal of other scientific evidence and opinion does not back them up."

'Carried To Extreme'

Talk about a "safe" cigarette, Ragland said, "is not new from them either, but what is new is the admission, out of this same conference, that they do not know of any compounds present in cigarette smoke in sufficient amounts to account for lung cancer."

"The anti-smoking campaign is being carried to an extreme," he continued, "when the idea is advanced that the

industry should remove something 'harmful' from tobacco that nobody knows is there."

W.H.O. Claims Cigarettes Are Cause Of Cancer

Geneva, March 29 (AP)—The World Health Organization said yesterday cigarette smoking is a major cause of lung cancer.

In its first formally expressed opinion on the subject, the 85-nation organization reported responsible scientific opinion is agreed on cigarette smoking as the main factor.

Critics of this view have raised some interesting points, but, have failed to cast any serious doubt on the conclusion, W.H.O. said in a report on the causes of lung cancer.

Million Smokers Studied To Check 'Safer' Cigarettes

By ALTON BLAKESLEE

Associated Press Writer

"Safer" cigarettes may already be on the market, and a cancer researcher says he hopes to learn if they are really safe.

These safer smokes may be those containing only one-fourth the nicotine and one-half the tar content of standard non-filter cigarettes, said Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, director of statistical research for the American Cancer Society.

A six-year study of more than 1,000,000 Americans, now under way by the society, examining many health factors and habits, may show whether those who switch to the "safer" cigarettes actually live longer, Dr. Hammond told a seminar for science writers being held in Louisville.

Dr. Hammond is one who is convinced cigarette smoking is "the principal cause" of lung cancer now.

Despite all recent warnings, cigarette sales are at a new high, but perhaps the warning hasn't fallen on deaf ears because sales of filter-tipped and low-tar, low-nicotine cigarettes have increased tremendously.

Wants Content Labeled

Dr. Hammond said, "It appears the majority of Americans want to smoke, but they want to do so without running the risk of lung cancer or any of the other diseases associated with cigarette smoking."

Safer cigarettes would at least reduce the dangers he's worried about, scientists said.

Dr. Hammond declared cigarette manufacturers should be "required to make known the tar and nicotine content of their brand."

He said that "having a high regard for individual freedom, I would be opposed to the prohibition of cigarettes even if it would work."

Dr. Oscar Auerbach, a pathologist who has made a special study of lung tissues, declared, "I have never seen a man who died of squamous or oat cell cancer of the lung—nor has anyone else shown me a case of this kind—in the last three and a half years who was not a smoker."

Squamous and oat cell types of cancer account for the majority of lung cancers, said Dr. Auerbach, who is with the Veterans Administration at East Orange, N.J.

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Staff Photo
DR. E. CUYLER HAMMOND
Cancer research pushed